

“Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius, and it’s better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring.” – Marilyn Monroe

Why do we always change because of what other people think of us, and not appreciate ourselves for the person we are? To me, there is no absolute definition as to what is beautiful and what is not, or what is right and what is wrong. I always thought that flaws are a part of me and not exactly something that I definitely have to change. Flaws are what define me as a person, just like my strengths. Hence, only with both my strengths and weaknesses can I have my own personality. That is why I believe in being myself.

I grew up always trying to please my parents, trying to be the person they expected me to be. I only did things they approve of, followed their every instruction and gave in to everything they had planned for me. I never had a stand of my own. However as I grew older, I realised that in the process I lost the person I was. I did not know of what I liked and disliked anymore. At that moment, I only knew how to seek acceptance from people around but ignored what I wanted.

I also once tried to fit into a group of friends. I behaved the way they did, copying the way they talked and acted. I changed my preferences according to what they liked and disliked. At that point of time, the only thought I had was that if I were different they would not be my friends anymore. However, I was never close to that group of friends. We hung out together but that was all. When I tried to think of a reason, it was only then I saw how I probably only looked like a clone and there was never anything interesting about me. I learnt that being and finding myself is important, if not I will never be remembered.

The society attempts to define people based on its own image of appearance and normality. I was afraid of not fitting in, therefore changed myself to fit the image the society has set. However I found out that in the process, one will lose his or her own individuality and hence becomes mediocre. Now, I firmly believe that being myself and

choosing to be unconventional may not be easy, but it certainly can be done. Why choose to be easily forgotten when you can be unique and make an impression?

I am still in the midst of finding myself, of understanding me and who I am. But one thing I know for sure is that I will stand up for what I believe in and dare to be different. I will not be afraid of being myself. Because one day, I will find that someone who will learn to embrace my strengths and weaknesses, and appreciate me for the person I truly am.